Austin Bierman

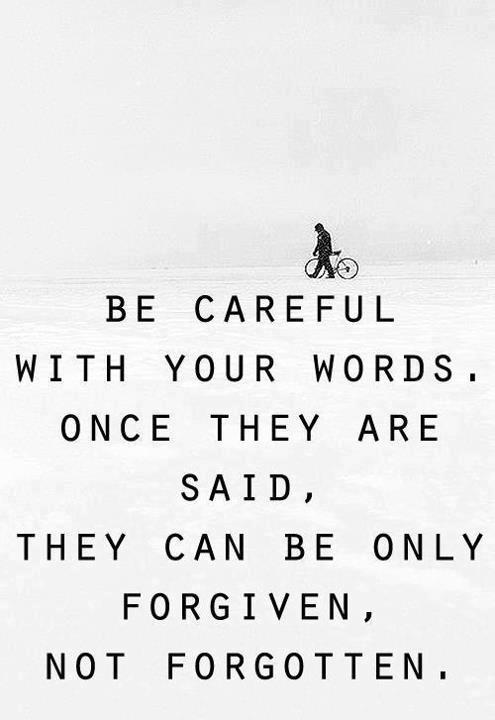
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English

Short Stories Portfolio

By

Austin Bierman



These are two great works of Art to describe the short story “The Lady or the Tiger”. The man in our story is charged in the king’s arena. He has to pick one of two doors to open, one has a tiger in it and the other has a beautiful woman for him to marry in it. His life is in his hands, but not entirely. The person he loves is the princess, the king’s daughter, and he is not of royal blood. This is part of the reason why he is in the situation he is in. She knows what is behind which door, but she is barbaric. She tells him which door to open, but we don’t know what is behind that door.

The poem that I chose might be short, but it is a meaningful one, if you can look beyond the surface and read deeper into it. She told him which door to open. She has either just sent him to his death or into the arms of another woman. Either way this will not end well for either of them. She has said what she said; there is no going back. This poem connects to the story quite well. This man who is about to choose a door has given away his fate to the princess. He will trust whatever she just told him. His “choice” was just almost completely taken away from him. She did what she did now; he just has to hope that she has spared him.

The other piece of art is a picture of a scene from a movie, The Matrix. This scene is strongly connected to this short story. In this scene Morpheus is giving Neo a choice. He can either take one pill and go back to sleep, wake up and pretend like this never happened. Or he could take the other pill and wake up, see the real world, not this fake reality made for him by machines. Morpheus describes to him the situations that he’ll be in if he takes one pill or the other. The way he describes it, Neo doesn’t really have a choice. He’d be stupid to take the first pill and pretend like that never happened. How do you continue living and knowing that your whole life is a lie? You can’t. He no longer has any real choice. Like the man in the story he can choose to do the opposite, but why would you. He trusts what this person is telling him. No matter which door he opens or which pill he takes, his life won’t be the same and won’t be as good as it was before.



“EARTH is rocking in space!

And the thunders crash up with a roar upon roar,

And the eddying lightnings flash fire in my face,

And the whirlwinds are whirling the dust round and round--

And the blasts of the winds universal leap free

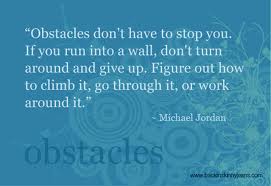
And blow each other upon each, with a passion of sound,

…Dost see how I suffer this wrong?”

These are also two great works of art. These, however, describe a different story; they describe “The Cask of Amontillado”. In this short story there are only two main characters and are the only characters in the story. In this story the villain, Montressor, and the victim, Fortunato, are hanging out at a carnival. Montressor tells Fortunato about this cask of wine he has, Amontillado, and Fortunato, a wine lover, can’t refuse an offer to drink some. Montressor constantly uses reverse psychology to lure him down into his family caves/burial grounds where the wine is. He keeps calling Fortunato his friend and making him feel welcome/cared for. However, Montressor’s real plan is to murder Fortunato that night and leave him in the caves.

The picture above is a depiction of a Jewish holiday and a specific part of it. In this specific scene it’s depicting a scene where Esther, the queen, (who is a Jew, but the king doesn’t know that). The third man, Ha’man, is a high official for the king, who wants to kill all the Jews, he also doesn’t know that the queen is Jewish. The queen invites the both of them to a feast. She then invites them to another feast the next day. In those two feasts she makes Ha’man think that she likes him and wants to promote him. He is comfortable with her. She invites them to a third feast; at this feast she breaks the news to them. The king is infuriated that he wished to kill his queen. The king then has him sentenced to death and he his never heard from again. This is like the story; in that, she makes him feel welcome and lures him into a trap that he will not be able to survive.

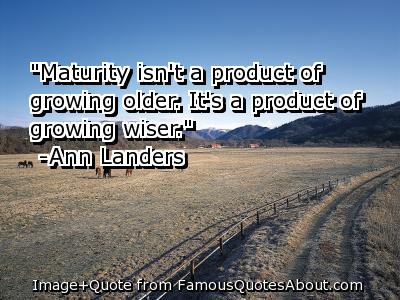
The other piece of art, the poem, also helps to describe the story. It describes it in a different way though. This poem speaks of the destruction of the earth and the horrors a man experienced, but never expected. In one night Fortunato’s whole world was destroyed. He is silenced in one quick night. He was never expecting Montressor to do this to him. When he was chained to the wall and Montressor was building a wall to lock him in the room, he laughed and told Montressor how this was one fine joke. He truly believed that all would be fine and that they were friends. They weren’t, Montressor felt wronged in some way and decided the only way to get retribution was to kill him. This poem describes the end of the world and Fortunato’s world did end that night.



These two works of art go hand in hand with the short story “The Most Dangerous Game.” This short story is very different from those we have read in the past. This story is all about the hunt; the thrill of killing a grown animal as smart and cunning as you. However, there is also the scary side of this story; when you realize that the animal General Zaroff is hunting is a human. A man named Rainsford is on a yacht sailing to Rio de Janeiro. He falls over board and starts swimming to the only island in sight. This island, however, is mysterious and sailors fear and avoid it. He meets General Zaroff there. He takes care of him for a few days, but then sends him off to be hunted. Rainsford is given some food, some new clothes, and a knife. Zaroff wanted it to be a good hunt and a true challenge. Rainsford was able to make traps and in the end he killed general Zaroff.

The picture is a scene from the movie called “The Hunger Games”. In this movie people are selected at random to be trained for a few days and then fight to the death. In the movie one group of people get together and literally hunt them down. These people are ruthless and have no problem murdering other human beings. They enjoy the hunt they didn’t want it to be easy. These murderous people from the movie are a lot alike general Zaroff. They both enjoyed the hunt and the slaughter of another animal even if it were human. Also like the story, Catnis in the movie has to adapt to the situation and get past her fear of killing another human being. She is a lot like Rainsford, they both were normal people turned into killers by force. They both overcame their feelings and killed the people trying to kill them.

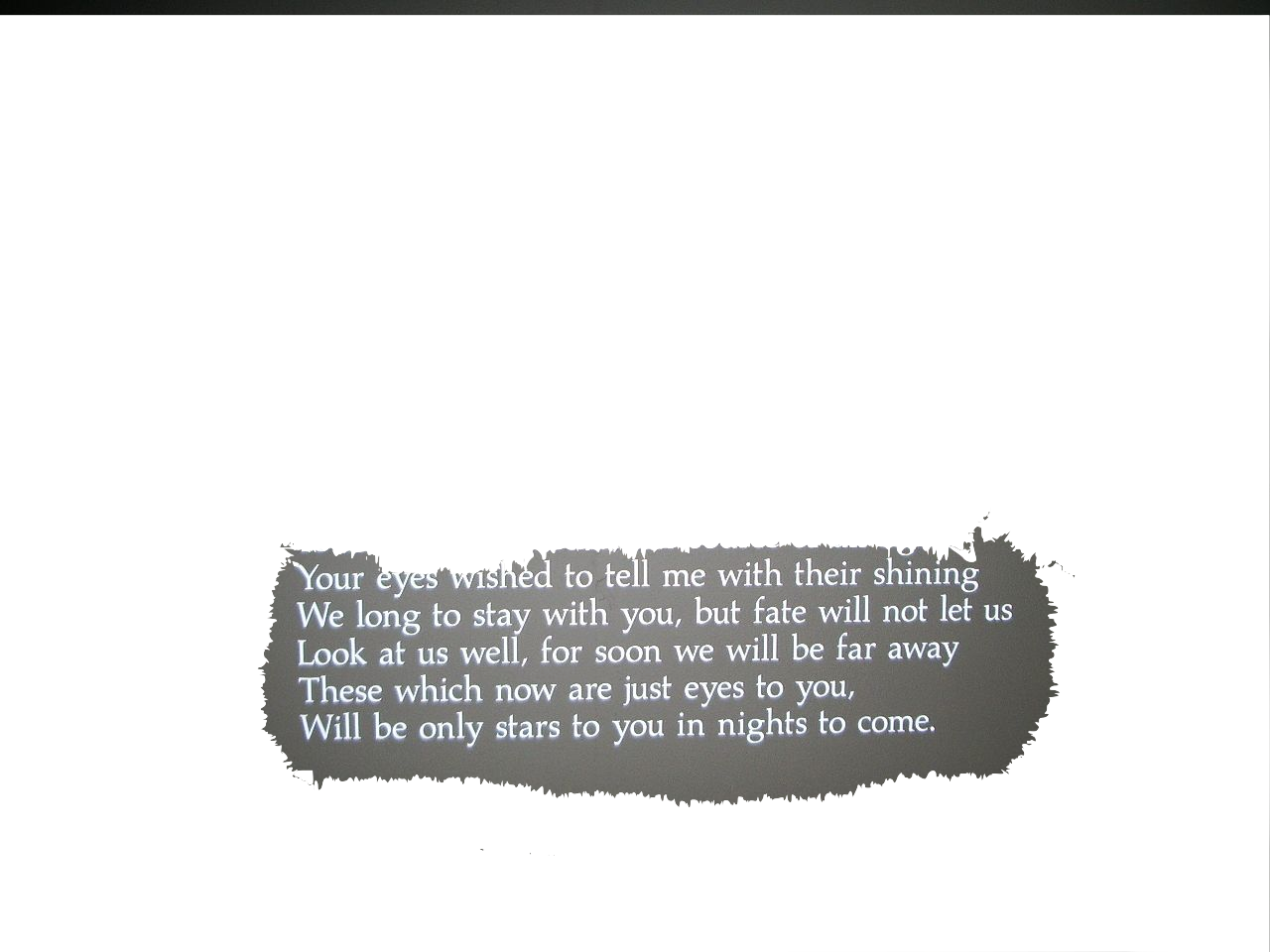
The poem or quote helps to describe Rainsford and his part in the story. He has no business being on that island and didn’t want to be there either. He fell overboard and knew that his only chance of survivals was swimming as fast as he could to the island. He follows what looks to be like human footprints all the way to a gate leading to a mansion. General Zaroff invites him to go hunting for humans with him. Rainsford refuses and demands to be let off the island. Instead Zaroff turns Rainsford into his new prey. Rainsford overcomes his obstacle of defeating an enemy at his own game. No matter what Zaroff tries or what Zaroff expected, Rainsford defeated him. Rainsford beats all the odds against him and kills Zaroff.



The short story “Where Have You Been Where Are You Going” is, basically, a collection of metaphors and symbolism. Nothing in the story can be taken at face value if you truly want to understand this story. In this story a girl named Connie is always acting older than she is and as if she has experience with me. However, once Arnold Friend comes “knocking on her door” giving her the chance to actually experience something with men, everything is just moving a little too fast for her. Connie and Arnold Friend are the main characters in this story. Each one of the works of arts above relate directly to the story and to each character. The picture of the biblical story of Adam and Eve relates to Arnold Friend, but probably not in the way that you would think. And the poem/quote relates directly to Connie.

The poem/quote really helps to describe Connie. She wants to grow up already, be in charge of her own life, and do what she wants to do. She doesn’t realize what the real world is like though. She doesn’t understand what it really means to be grown up and mature. A man, Arnold Friend, drives up and sees her while she is alone at home. She talks with him by his car and has a conversation with him. He tells her “I know you sweet Connie. I’ve been watching you.” This is when she starts to question his true motives. She starts getting nervous around him and retreats to her house. She threatens to call the police if he comes inside. For some reason, as if she was drugged, she started giving into everything he had asked for. By the end of the story she is leaving her house and going with him to wherever he wants to take her. She didn’t understand what it meant to be grown up. She flirted and pretended to be older than she is and it didn’t end well for her.

The picture of the biblical story of Adam and Eve (above) is a good story to describe Arnold Friend. Not because he resembles Adam or Eve, but because his is a snake, both metaphorically and symbolically. He is the snake in the story, symbolically, because of what the snake itself represents. The snake represents evil, temptation, and persuasion. Like the snake tried and succeeded in having Eve eat an apple, Arnold persuaded Connie to come with him to wherever he was going to take her. He kept hinting and telling her “I am your lover, you don’t know what that means yet, but you will”. He was very creepy and was tempting her to give in to his charm and mystery. For some reason she couldn’t deny his evil ideas, gave into his persuasion and temptations. He made a plan; he knew she would be alone that day at that time. He always knew that it was going to end the way he wanted it to. He is a snake, manipulative and sadistic, a truly evil person.



The Short Story “Orientation” is truly an odd one. All that really happens in it is a man is at his first day of work and is being shown around by another man. The author, Daniel Orozco, never names these two people; he doesn’t even say whether or not they are men or women. The man who is being “shown the ropes” is just being told about every little detail in the workplace. He is told about the relationships between co-workers; who does what and why. What his job is, how to do it correctly, and just the overall way to survive in this workplace. I believe that this story is just a giant metaphor for society in a couple of ways. The main way is how your brought up and raised to do what you do. Most people won’t see it like that, but I think that is the only way to even pretend that you understand this story, or the reason for why it was written. It is a little harder to find great works of art for a story like this. However if you look at it the way I do, and look for the deeper message in things than you will see why I chose the things I chose.

The movie “The Truman Show” helps relate to this story. In “The Truman Show” Jim Carrey plays someone who is raised and brought up to adulthood, but his whole life is a TV show. He is always being watched by cameras and by thousands of people world wide, without ever knowing it. He is brought up to believe that what he is living in is reality and he is living life the way he is supposed to. He is taught how to live his life; what’s his and what’s not; what to do and what not to do as if his world was his workplace and his house his cubicle. He sees how relationships are formed; how easily they can be broken and how complex they are as well. Once he starts to realize that something is wrong he starts going a little crazy and sees how complicated this world is. To him this all seems supernatural and not right; like the murderers and psychics in the office in the story. Once he left the show he was basically a new child and needed to go through another “orientation” day for how to live life.

The poem above is also helpful to describing this society in the work place. It tells you how “we” want to stay with “you” for as long as they can. However it isn’t really acceptable in the world and society we live in now days. The man who is showing the other man the way to survive in this job is like his/her parents. They will show you all they can and try to help you so you don’t die young and get to live a long successful life, just by following simple rules. They won’t be with you forever, their job is to show you and help you every now and then when you truly need it, but eventually you’ll have to know what to do and how to do it. You’ll need to be able to show your own child or new co-worker the same that you were taught. To leave them alone, go far away and help them thrive in society or “the work place”.